

RUNNING ON A FULL TANK: A Tank Full of Power  
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 Exodus 3: 11-13 and 4: 1-10  
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These past few weeks we have been learning about what it takes to keep our faith tanks full.

- Queen Esther taught us about a tank Full of purpose as this orphaned Jewish girl became the Queen of Persia and as such, she saves the entire Jewish nation from destruction. Her courageous actions not only save the Jewish nation but they are still celebrated today with the Jewish celebration called Purim.
- Joseph, the son of Jacob, was the supreme example of a person running on a full tank of perseverance wasn't he? No matter what set backs he encountered, he still trusted God to be with him and in the end he became the right hand man to the Pharaoh of Egypt.
- And a little slave girl, whose name isn't even mentioned, believed that with God all things are possible, as she told her master's wife to send her husband, Naaman, to the prophet Elisha to be healed of his leprosy.

**Purpose, perseverance** and **possibility** thinking in all of these people was possible because they trusted in God and allowed him to fill their tanks with his **power**. A tank full of power- **God's power** - is what changed the impossible to the possible.

Today we are going to look at another ordinary person in the Bible by the name of Moses, who let God's power fill him to overflowing in order to accomplish the extraordinary. Movies are made about Moses, books are written about Moses, songs are sung about Moses, and even a children's movie - The Prince of Egypt – was made about Moses.

Certainly one of the reasons this is so, is because Moses does have such a great story to tell of God's power at work in the life of an ordinary man. But I think the other reason is because we can relate to Moses in so many ways.

Moses exemplifies for us God using a person with flaws, fears, and weaknesses to accomplish great missions in life.

God can empower an insecure, frail person with enough assurance and strength to set a whole nation free from bondage.

Our Bible Storytellers, who did such a great job of telling us the story of Moses, picked up the story when Moses is in exile and living as a shepherd, before he goes back to Egypt to set the Hebrew nation free. God is speaking to Moses from the burning bush and he is telling him his mission. Moses is giving God a list of all the reasons he cannot do what God is asking.

**My favorite excuse is in chapter 4 verse 10 when Moses explains to God that he is not a good speaker.**

He is not a good speaker but the first thing he does is argue with God. Moses is afraid he won't be able to convince the Israelites that God sent him but apparently he thinks he can convince God that he has picked the wrong man. What irony.

Have you ever noticed that God often calls us to do things we're not comfortable doing? **It is a simple God principle—God wants to stretch us, to grow us so we become more like his Son, Jesus.**

However it is a sad fact that:

**Most of us use what we *can't* do to keep us from doing what we *can* do.**

God asks Moses what I want to ask you today:

**“What do you have in your hand?”**

What is available to you, at your disposal, in your possession?

The staff Moses had was nothing special in and of itself, it was just a staff - a stick.

What was significant about **this** stick was: It was what Moses had.

**I want you to notice that God did NOT ask Moses what he didn't have.**

Although that is exactly what Moses points out to God over and over again.

We could all make a long list of what we don't have, couldn't we?

In fact, that is what we are prone to do as well – **give our NOT enough list.**

- \*We do not have enough money.
- \*We do not have enough education.
- \*We do not have a high enough social standing.
- \*We are too young or too old.
- \*We do not know the Bible well enough.

The list can go on and on.

**However, God never directs our attention to what we don't have, He directs it to what we do have - even if it seems small.**

Because if God calls us to do a job, He will give us everything we need to accomplish that job. **God doesn't need our abilities, but He does demand our availability.**

What we have may seem small, weak and insignificant, but this is on purpose.

**You see God has designed it so that what we have “in our hand” MUST be connected to him to work. Because the difference is the power of God.**

It is not your ability, your knowledge, your talent, the size of your gift or the beauty of your gift that matters.

**All that matters is: How much of God is in your stick.**

Your stick represents that which you have that you are willing to **surrender** to God.

**Trust** God with your stick. When God gets in it, it's enough.

**What is in your hand – what is your “JUST” enough that you need to trust God with.**

When God gets in it, it will surprise you. When God entered Moses' stick, it turned into a serpent and Moses fled from it. We need to ask God to get in our stick.

The great need of the hour is: God in our songs, God in our preaching, God in our

worship, God in our marriage, God in our business, God in our gifts, God in our talent. Trust God with your “stick.”

The anointing is the supernatural power of God operating through the natural to produce results that are humanly impossible.

In other words – When you give up your NOT enough excuse, trust God with your “JUST” enough that is in your hand, God’s power turns it into “MORE” than enough, then the ordinary becomes extraordinary.

When God gets in a thing, it is not the same.

When God gets in a thing it can scare some people.

Let me give you just a few examples from the Bible – I won’t give you the whole story because those are all sermons for another day.

\*God got in Moses’ staff and it parted the Red Sea.

\*God got in a rock and caused a river to flow out of it that quenched the thirst of millions of Israelites.

\*God got into a little Jewish girl and caused her to become a queen who saved a nation.

\*God got in a donkey and caused it to speak and rebuke a rebellious prophet.

\*God got in a little pot of oil and caused it to multiply till it met every need and provided an abundant overflow.

When Moses placed the 10 commandments in a box, God got in the box, and they called it the Ark of the Covenant. The Ark was made out of wood, but it was covered with Gold - symbolic of the natural and the supernatural, the human and the divine nature of Jesus. They placed this box inside the most Holy Place of the tabernacle. From the outside the tabernacle was covered with animal skin. No one would know by looking at the outside, that there was such a valuable treasure inside.

In similar fashion, today God has chosen to place his presence and glory in human tents; **Our bodies are the temples of God.**

2 Corinthians 4:7 tells us, “But this precious treasure – this light and power that now shine within us – is held in perishable containers, that is in our weak bodies.”

We are weak, we have no life or strength or power of our own, until we surrender ourselves to God so that his power can flow in and through us.

Too many times we are unwilling to give up what we have.

We want to hold on to what we know, what we understand, what we are comfortable with, what we have leaned upon and had control of for so long.

God is wanting to give us something new, something greater, but you have to be willing to let go of what you have.

Before God could fulfill his promise to Abraham - that all the nations of the earth would be blessed in his seed, his son Isaac, God asked for his seed back. God asked Abraham to offer Isaac as a sacrifice. Abraham trusted God with his seed, Isaac, and God gave him Jesus and everyone who trusts in his blood to save us. We are today the seed of Abraham

because Abraham was willing to give what he had to God.

**When you are willing to be open to hearing God's voice calling you,**

**And you LET GO of your "NOT" enough excuses.**

**When you are willing to give God whatever is in your hand – whatever your stick is, and you are willing to TRUST God with your "JUST" enough offering.**

**When you are open to letting God's power flow in you and through you, and you ENTER into God's "MORE" than enough promise,**

**Then you will see miracles happen.**

**One of the greatest problems we have as Believers is we have a tendency to underestimate what we have.**

I have just a little pot of oil, said the widow woman who was in debt and in danger of losing her sons to a life of slavery and then Elisha told her to gather pots and they filled them to overflowing.

There is boy here with two fish and five loaves of bread, but what is that among so many asked Philip a disciple of Jesus, and Jesus fed 5000.

Hannah held just a small child in her hands but when she gave him to God, he became the great prophet Samuel.

In each case their little bit was enough. When they put it in Gods hands it became MORE than enough.

God is not looking for greatness, he is looking for someone who is willing to trust him with their "stick", to be available for him to use.

- All Chef Joe had in his hands was some cooking utensils, all some disciples here at Tipp City UMC had in their hands were cars and an available heart and God has used it to bless many ill or home-bound people with a warm home cooked meal once a week, in fact I believe they have delivered over 2000 meals by now. What do you have in your hands?
- All Olive Wright had in her hand was a desire to put shoes on some children in a country half way around the world and an ad asking for donations, but God has now seen to it that 200 children now have shoes and another 100 will soon be on their way. What do you have in your hands?
- A group of people with various talents had a trailer full of tools and they have went to parts of Ohio and Indiana in order to help people who are struggling to rebuild their homes, make them livable again and bless countless families with warm, clean homes. What do you have in your hand?
- A group of singers and bell ringers have only their voices and some bells in their hands, but God has used both to bless many nursing home residents who can no longer come to worship, to be able to enjoy some of the elements of worship that they miss and God has joined in the celebration. What do you have in your hands?

- Ellen Hazel knew how to read and organize and for the last 3 or 4 years now she has been helping to coordinate tutors and be a tutor herself to some women who make their living by dancing on the Dixie strip, in order that these women might be able to have a better life by obtaining a GED.
- All I had was a rather shame filled past, a lot of life experiences and a desire to serve the God who offered me forgiveness, the God who set me free. But I, like Moses, gave God every NOT enough excuse I could think of before I finally trusted God with what was in my hands. I am still amazed and surprised by what God has and continues to accomplish in and through me by his power.

Just some oil – no problem, God can use it.

Just a child – you’ve got to be kidding, God can change the world with a child!

Just a stick, or cooking utensils, or shoes, or tools, or even a shame-filled forgiven past combined with a willingness to serve – put it in God’s hand and watch out!!

My friends, there is a world of human hearts enslaved by a heartless inhumane world, and they are waiting for someone. The same God who called and sent Moses is still meeting people as uncertain of themselves as Moses was. He is revealing his **purpose** to them and releasing countless **possibilities** through His love, His grace and through His **power**.

*Are you willing to place whatever you have in your hand, in God's hand, so He can change the world with it?*

If so please pray this prayer with me – I will say it and I invite you to repeat it after me.

Dear Heavenly Father,

I want to experience your power.

I want to know, not just believe, that you are awesome in power and mighty in deeds.

I am willing to openly admit that I need more of you in my life.

My heart is open to whatever you want to do in and through my life.

I trust you and offer you what is in my hand today.

AMEN

Resources: Bible, sermoncentral.com, *Destiny and Deliverance* by various authors, *A Vessel God Can Use* by Donna Partow